

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of optimizing a shopping list process, comprising steps
2 of:

3 obtaining a shopping list comprising a plurality of items and/or services to be obtained;

4 ~~obtaining one or more factors which a user wishes to use in optimizing a shopping path~~
5 ~~for the items on the shopping list;~~

6 programmatically determining a plurality of merchants, and locations thereof, from which
7 [[where]] the plurality of items and/or services may be purchased obtained; and

8 programmatically computing, in view of one or more shopping path optimization factors,
9 a [[the]] shopping path for obtaining the items and/or services, wherein such that the user can use
10 the shopping path comprises an ordered traversal to travel among the locations of at least two
11 selected ones of the merchants[[,]] and wherein the selected merchants are selected according to
12 the one or more obtained optimization factors comprise at least a minimum overall cost of
13 obtaining the items and/or services.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the obtained~~
2 ~~factors is to optimize a physical length of the shopping path for travelling among the selected~~
3 ~~merchants is used in addition to, or instead of, the minimum overall cost.~~

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the obtained~~
2 ~~factors is to optimize a shopping time budget purchase cost for obtaining the items and/or~~
3 ~~services on the shopping list is used in addition to, or instead of, the minimum overall cost.~~

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1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~one of the obtained~~
2 ~~factors is to optimize a minimum number of merchants on the shopping path from which the~~
3 ~~items and/or services may be obtained is used in addition to, or instead of, the minimum overall~~
4 ~~cost.~~

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~[[steps]] the~~
2 ~~step of shopping at each successive one of the merchants on the computed shopping path,~~
3 ~~comprising steps of:~~

4 traveling to ~~[[each]] the location of the successive merchant on the computed shopping~~
5 ~~path;~~

6 ~~while at the traveled-to location, purchasing obtaining zero or more of the items and/or~~
7 ~~services from the shopping list at each merchant; and~~

8 ~~programmatically remembering which items and/or services from the shopping list have~~
9 ~~been purchased thus obtained.~~

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising steps of:

2 ~~after shopping at each successive one of the merchants, programmatically creating a~~
3 ~~revised shopping list which excludes the programmatically remembered items and/or services;~~
4 ~~and~~

5 ~~determining whether items and/or services expected to be available from [[at]] a~~
6 ~~particular one of the merchants were available for purchase from the particular merchant, and if~~

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7 not, programmatically recomputing the shopping path after adding the items and/or services
8 which were unavailable to the revised shopping list.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the shopping path begins from an
2 identified starting location and terminates at an identified ending location, which may be
3 identical to the starting location.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein one or more
2 traveling salesman algorithm implementations are used by the programmatically computing step.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the programmatically
2 determining step further comprises the step of contacting the merchants in a dynamic and
3 automated manner to determine availability of the items and/or services on the shopping list.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of
2 programmatically computing a summary after travelling to the ~~selected merchants~~ merchant
3 locations, wherein the summary comprises information pertaining to one or more of: which
4 ~~merchants~~ merchant locations were travelled to; the remembered items and/or services which
5 were ~~purchased~~ obtained; a cost of the remembered items and/or services which were ~~purchased~~
6 obtained; a count of ~~merchants~~ merchant locations travelled to; ~~and~~ a cost savings of the
7 remembered items and/or services which were ~~purchased~~ obtained.

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1 Claim 11 (currently amended): A system for optimizing a shopping list process, comprising
2 steps of:

3 means for identifying a plurality of items and/or services on a shopping list;

4 ~~means for identifying one or more factors which a user wishes to use in optimizing a~~
5 ~~shopping path for the identified items;~~

6 means for programmatically determining a plurality of merchants, and locations thereof,
7 from which [[where]] the identified items and/or services may be purchased obtained; and

8 means for programmatically computing, in view of one or more shopping path
9 optimization factors, a [[the]] shopping path for obtaining the items and/or services, wherein
10 ~~such that the user can use the shopping path~~ comprises an ordered traversal to travel among the
11 locations of ~~at least two selected ones of the merchants~~[[,]] and wherein the ~~selected merchants~~
12 ~~are selected according to the one or more identified factors~~ comprise one or more of: (1) a
13 minimum overall cost of obtaining the items and/or services; (2) a minimum number of
14 merchants from which the items and/or services may be obtained; (3) a minimum overall
15 distance of the shopping path; and (4) minimum travel time to traverse the shopping path.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 11, further comprising means for
2 programmatically remembering which items and/or services from the shopping list have been
3 ~~purchased~~ obtained while traveling to each successive merchant location on the computed
4 shopping path.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising:

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2 means for programmatically creating a revised shopping list which excludes the
3 programmatically remembered items and/or services; and

4 means for determining whether items and/or services expected to be available from [[at]]
5 a particular one of the merchants were available for purchase from the particular merchant, and if
6 not, programmatically recomputing the shopping path after adding the items and/or services
7 which were unavailable to the revised shopping list.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): A computer program product for optimizing a shopping list
2 process, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-usable media and
3 comprising:

4 computer readable program code means for identifying a plurality of items and/or
5 services on a shopping list;

6 ~~computer readable program code means for identifying one or more factors which a user~~
7 ~~wishes to use in optimizing a shopping path for the identified items;~~

8 computer readable program means for programmatically determining a plurality of
9 merchants, and locations thereof, from which [[where]] the identified items and/or services may
10 be ~~purchased~~ obtained; and

11 computer readable program code means for programmatically computing, in view of one
12 or more shopping path optimization factors, a [[the]] shopping path for obtaining the items
13 and/or services, wherein ~~such that the user can use the shopping path~~ comprises an ordered
14 traversal ~~to travel among the locations of at least two selected ones of the merchants~~[[,]] and
15 ~~wherein the selected merchants are selected according to the one or more identified factors~~

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16 comprise one or more of: (1) a minimum overall cost of obtaining the items and/or services; (2)
17 a minimum number of merchants from which the items and/or services may be obtained; (3) a
18 minimum overall distance of the shopping path; and (4) minimum travel time to traverse the
19 shopping path.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 14, further
2 comprising computer readable program code means for programmatically remembering which
3 items and/or services from the shopping list have been purchased obtained while traveling to
4 each successive merchant location on the computed shopping path.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 computer readable program code means for programmatically creating a revised shopping
4 list which excludes the remembered items and/or services; and

5 computer readable program code means for determining whether items and/or services
6 expected at a particular one of the merchants were available for purchase from the particular
7 merchant, and if not, programmatically recomputing the shopping path after adding the items
8 and/or services which were unavailable to the revised shopping list.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein a nearest neighbor
2 algorithm implementation is [[are]] used by the programmatically computing step.

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1 Claim 18 (new): The system according to Claim 11, further comprising means for allowing a
2 user to select which of the optimization factors are to be used in the means for programmatically
3 computing.

1 Claim 19 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 14, further comprising
2 computer readable program code means for allowing a user to select which of the optimization
3 factors are to be used in the computer readable program code means for programmatically
4 computing.

1 Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein travel time to traverse the shopping
2 path is used in addition to, or instead of, the minimum overall cost.